Quiz 6 - Chapter 06   
Public Opinion and Political Socialization: Shaping the People's Voice   
  
1. What are the two distinguishing characteristics of political socialization?   
A. Schools are the most influential agent of political socialization, and political socialization is strongest during childhood.  
B. Family is the strongest agent of political socialization, and political socialization is strongest during high school and college.  
C. Political socialization is cumulative, and it is most heavily developed during childhood.  
D. Political socialization is transitory, and it is most heavily developed during young adulthood.  
E. Political socialization occurs primarily among educated populations, and it is most heavily developed during adulthood.   
  
2.  As an agent of political socialization, the American family has its greatest effect on individuals'   
A. party identification.  
B. choice and form of higher education.  
C. professional career.  
D. knowledge of particular public policies.  
E. rate of political participation.   
  
3. Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann's "spiral of silence" theory contends that   
A. most individuals are reluctant to speak out against the dominant opinion.  
B. people tend not to express their views until asked.  
C. people holding deviant opinions tend to be more vocal, and hence silence the majority.  
D. most individuals like to challenge dominant opinions.  
E. All these answers are correct.   
  
4. Party identification refers to   
A. the percentage of polled individuals that claim membership in a particular party.  
B. formal membership in a political party.  
C. an emotional attachment to a political party.  
D. a political party's platform—the stances on issues that define its beliefs.  
E. the ability of individual citizens to identify the major issue positions of the major political parties.   
  
5. Currently, the greatest percentage of Americans identify as   
A. Democrats.  
B. Republicans.  
C. Independents.  
D. Libertarians.  
E. Populists.   
  
6. Historically, dramatic change in party identification is uncommon and is almost always a consequence of   
A. a change in the policy position of the president.  
B. major upheaval.  
C. popular satisfaction with a government initiative.  
D. a change in the law.  
E. a Supreme Court ruling.   
  
7. Friedrich Engels believed that communism would not take root in the United States because   
A. the poorer American classes still had enough material wealth to be happy with their station.  
B. American workers lacked sufficient class consciousness.  
C. the government was already providing substantial financial assistance to the working class.  
D. the Social Security system provided workers with a safety net not available to workers in Europe.  
E. the government of the U.S. was too militantly anti-communist and would not allow propaganda to spread.   
  
8. A general belief about the role and purpose of government is called   
A. conservatism.  
B. an ideology.  
C. socialization.  
D. politicization.  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
9. Which of the following statements about Americans and ideology and political thinking is true?   
A. Liberalism and conservatism have such imprecise meanings that it is not useful to think about politics in these terms.  
B. Americans overwhelmingly identify themselves as liberals.  
C. Americans are highly sophisticated in their political thinking.  
D. Only a minority of Americans can be classified as true ideologues.  
E. Americans are highly consistent in their political thinking.   
  
  
  
10. Which of the following states is a competitive state, meaning that it could potentially vote either Democratic or Republican?   
A. Florida  
B. California  
C. Massachusetts  
D. Kansas  
E. Minnesota   
  
11. Each of the following statements could be considered true of either economic or social liberals, EXCEPT that   
A. they favor government activism in the area of distribution of economic benefits.  
B. they prefer a smaller role for government in upholding social and cultural traditions.  
C. they favor more government spending for the poor.  
D. they believe lifestyle choices should be left to the individual.  
E. they believe that government should be used to promote traditional values.   
  
12. Libertarians are opposed to governmental intervention   
A. in both the economic and social spheres.  
B. in the economic but not the social sphere.  
C. in the social sphere, but not the economic sphere.  
D. in neither the social nor the economic spheres.  
E. only with regard to affirmative action.   
  
13. A conservative is opposed to government intervention   
A. in both the economic and social spheres.  
B. in the economic but not the social sphere.  
C. in the social sphere, but not the economic sphere.  
D. in neither the social nor the economic spheres.  
E. only with regard to affirmative action.   
  
14. Americans who attend religious services at least once a week are most likely to vote for which political party?   
A. Libertarian  
B. Democratic  
C. Republican  
D. Populist  
E. Green   
  
15. According to a recent Pew Research Center poll, young adults are substantially more likely than senior citizens to support   
A. stronger environmental regulations.  
B. affirmative action.  
C. religious teaching in public schools.  
D. strengthening social security.  
E. the use of military force.   
  
16. Which of the following is true of letter writers and demonstrators?   
A. They tend to be individuals who have participated in violent or physical expressions of political opinion.  
B. They tend to espouse a centrist ideological leaning.  
C. They tend to have a greater effect on policymakers than the public opinion polls of the general population.  
D. Roughly 10 percent of Americans participate in a mass demonstration or write a letter to the editor each year.  
E. Their opinions tend to be more extreme than those of the population as whole.   
  
17. Which of the following is true about public opinion polling?   
A. Polls are the most relied-upon method of measuring public opinion.  
B. Polls can be erroneous at times.  
C. Most large news organizations have their own in-house polls.  
D. The Gallup pollsters have correctly predicted the winner of presidential elections most of the time since 1936.  
E. All these answers are correct.   
  
18. The key factors in determining the accuracy of an opinion poll are the   
A. population size and the sample size.  
B. sample size and the timeline over which the sample was taken.  
C. size of the sample and whether the sample was selected from the population by a random method.  
D. sample size and whether the sample has the same percentage of men and women as the population.  
E. anonymous nature of the sampling process and sample size.   
  
  
  
  
19. Sources of polling error can include   
A. question order.  
B. unrepresentative samples.  
C. respondents' lack of knowledge or interest in the issue.  
D. question wording.  
E. All these answers are correct.   
  
20. The term public opinion is frequently used in reference to all of American society. This perspective is   
A. accurate, since Americans are one people and indivisible.  
B. less accurate than a view of public opinion based on the majority, since the political system operates on the principle of majority rule.  
C. less accurate than the idea that Americans form many publics, which differ greatly in such things as the level of attention they pay to politics.  
D. less accurate than a view of public opinion based on what the news media are saying about the public.  
E. accurate, because there is little diversity in American public opinion.